

# Models FOR THE Nation

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May 2002

## Joint Effort to Offer Comprehensive Health Care Services to Women

*National Centers of Excellence and National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health  
to Join Forces in Community Outreach Projects*

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs)—part of the academic health care system—have been hard at work providing integrated health care for women since 1996. From the University of California in San Francisco to the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, the CoEs have set a national example for meeting the needs of women by providing innovative and comprehensive health care services.

In September 2000, the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOE)s—which are community-based health care providers—joined the CoEs in providing an integrated system of care to women at the community level, with a focus on underserved women. The CCOEs and CoEs are joining forces in broadening the reach of their services to women around the country through a year-long effort to develop and implement community outreach projects to meet an unmet need in their communities.

“These demonstration projects will take the CoEs and CCOEs to the next level by allowing the centers to combine efforts, and they will allow the Office on Women’s Health [OWH] to identify innovations in health care services to women,” says Susan Clark, Project

Officer of the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health program. "We're excited about this opportunity and as you will notice when you read about the different projects, the applicants are truly putting their best thinking forward to develop new and improved services for women."

The OWH, which is funding these seven projects, expects to learn how well the programs can

combine efforts to provide integrated health care to women in their respective targeted communities. More specifically, the OWH hopes to:

- Learn whether joining forces makes a difference in the health status of women in the respective communities served
- Assess the return on investment of federal dollars in providing women's health services through joint efforts



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- Determine the feasibility of working across states
- Determine the feasibility of community-based and academic-based programs working together
- Evaluate sharing expertise among CoEs and CCOEs

The following seven joint community outreach projects were selected based upon unmet needs in the CCOE and CoE respective service catchment areas.

- The Mariposa Community Health Center (Arizona) CCOE, UCLA CoE, UCSF CoE, and University of Washington CoE are developing educational tools on menopause for use by Promotora or Lay Health Educator during home visits or in small groups.
- The Pilot City Women's Center (Minnesota) CCOE, Magee-Womens Hospital CoE, and University of Wisconsin CoE are joining forces to reduce violence against women and girls in North Minneapolis by promoting healthy relationships through education, training and advocacy.
- The Northeast Missouri Health Council CCOE and Boston University CoE are developing programs to reduce cardiovascular risk through exercise.
- The Women's Health Center (New Mexico) CCOE and University of Illinois at Chicago CoE are developing a project to enhance patient-provider communication regarding use of dietary supplements and/or herbal medicine in mid-life and older women.
- The St. Barnabas Health Care System (New York) CCOE, University of Puerto Rico CoE, Harvard Medical School CoE, and Tulane/Xavier Universities CoE are developing a project to train women in the community in the area of cardiovascular disease risk factors, prevention, intervention, and early detection in order to educate African American and Latina/Hispanic women about this disease.
- The Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Center CCOE, University of Pennsylvania CoE, and University of Michigan CoE are developing violence prevention assessment and intervention tools for adolescent girls and women.
- The Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center CCOE, University of Indiana CoE, and MCP Hahnemann CoE are developing outreach and education programs on domestic violence for use in rural settings.

OWH is in the process of developing a methodology for evaluating these joint projects.

## National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health

**O**n February 26, 2002, the notice for the DHHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOE) program was published in the *Federal Register*. Applications are due May 1, 2002. OWH plans to fund four or more new Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health from applications submitted in response to this solicitation. The new awards will be made by September 30, 2002, and an orientation meeting for the new CCOE Center Directors will be held in mid-October.

The CCOEs address women's health from a women-centered, women-friendly, women-relevant, holistic, multidisciplinary, cultural, and community-based perspective. Early indications are that the CCOE program appears to be a promising model for the delivery of comprehensive, integrated services to underserved women. To date, seven CCOEs located in rural and urban areas throughout the country and serving diverse populations of women have been funded. These Centers are located in Minneapolis, MN; Cleveland, OH; St. Johnsbury, VT; Santa Fe, NM; Kirksville, MO; Nogales, AZ; and New York, NY.

The Office on Women's Health has also implemented plans to evaluate the CCOE program to objectively determine its merit. A contract has been awarded to develop a methodology for a national evaluation of the CCOE program. The contractor has interviewed all of the Center Directors to obtain their input on the evaluation plan. This plan will serve as the basis for the evaluation methodology.

# Striving for Better Services

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) continue to solidify their presence in the community by providing a wide selection of quality health care services for women. From sponsoring health conferences to offering training to others in the community, to substantially expand health care offerings, the CoEs provide a variety of services that truly exemplify the quality and the selection of health care services for women all providers must strive for. The CoEs are also investing in research to explore gender differences to understand why disease affects men and women differently.

The sampling of programs below showcases the range of activities carried out by the CoEs since the November issue of *Models for the Nation*.

## University of Washington

### *Promoting Powerful Bones*

In March, the University of Washington CoE promoted the *Powerful Bones Powerful Girls* campaign at a Neighborhood Network Center in South Seattle. A nurse discussed the importance of bone health and provided tips on nutrition and exercise for girls ages 9-12. A local dairy company provided ice cream for the girls. Promotional materials from Girl Power! and from the President's Council on Sports and Fitness were distributed.

## Magee-Womens Hospital

### *Gender-Based Medicine at Magee-Womens Hospital*

As part of its CoE initiatives on women's health, the Magee-Womens Hospital CoE seeks to identify the biological and physiological differences between men and women to assist physicians in explaining—and in understanding—why diseases affect men and women differently. Where scientists and physicians once studied the body as a whole organism, they are now looking at every level of the whole organism, using technological advances in genetics and molecular biology.

"We are spearheading research. Scientific findings are intersecting with Magee's goal to create comprehensive

care for women. We have expanded our clinical services to include specialty areas such as the Ovarian Cancer Screening Center, the Digestive Disorders Center and the Center for Continence and Pelvic Floor Disorders," says Debbi Linhart, Vice President of Ambulatory Care and Strategic Development and administrative director for the Magee-Womens Hospital Center of Excellence.



In addition, primary care physicians at Magee and throughout the UPMC Health System, as well as students of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, will be included in a gender-based education series sponsored by the Magee-Womens Hospital CoE. Center Director Sharon Hillier, Ph.D., will present *Infectious Disease/HIV and STDs*, and Melissa McNeil, CoE Medical Director, will present *The Female Athlete Triad*.

*CoE Director Invited to Consult on HIV/AIDS at WHO*  
Sharon Hillier, PhD, Magee-Womens Hospital CoE Center Director, was invited to Geneva by the World Health Organization as a consultant regarding HIV/AIDS prevention for women in the developing world. She also recently co-chaired the 2004 Planning Section of the NIH Office of AIDS Research on Developing HIV Prevention Methods & Research Agenda for Women and Girls.

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**"I prefer you to make mistakes  
in kindness than work miracles  
in unkindness."**

**—Mother Teresa**



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### *The Women of Zion Doula Mentoring Program at Magee-Womens Hospital*

With funding provided by the March of Dimes, the Women of Zion, a grassroots group of paraprofessionals, began a series of childbirth education classes and Doula training offered by the Magee-Womens Hospital CoE and are now enrolled to become certified Doulas. The concept of Doula professionals is one that has been receiving a great deal of attention among maternal child health experts because it offers patients the benefits of both “high tech” and “high touch” medical care. Pregnant women who have the benefit of Doula mentoring are offered the emotional and physical support that fills an important gap often found in high-risk populations. More specifically, the Doula experience allows patients a one-to-one social contact and mentoring that encourages early enrollment in prenatal care, adherence to proper prenatal health habits, and attendance to all prenatal care appointments.

### **University of California, Los Angeles**

## **menopaws™**

The Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Education & Resource Center at the UCLA CoE has developed Menopaws™, a new program for menopause-age women. The program combines education, support, and exercise in a new and innovative 11-week program. An important component of the Menopaws™ program is the presence of UCLA Medical Center's *People Animal*

*Connection*—animal-assisted therapy dogs for extra support and motivation. In the first five weeks of the program, enrolled participants engage in a discussion group featuring guest speakers on medical, sexuality, and nutrition issues. The remaining six weeks feature a 45-minute exercise program comprised of a 30-minute, non-competitive walk and stretching before and after the walk. The program is sponsored by a pharmaceutical company and a water product company which donates free water for the program.

### *Women's Health Leadership Series*

The UCLA CoE is sponsoring and coordinating the *UCLA CoE Women's Health Leadership Series*. The Series will host events featuring education and discussion of key issues for women faculty, residents, and medical students. The events are:

- Exploring the gender equity process at UCLA  
Mentoring discussion with Janet Bickel, Associate Vice President, Institutional Planning & Development, Association of American Medical Colleges
- Employment issues for female faculty including benefits, child care, and issues of gender and power abuse
- Networking for medical school students

### **University of Pennsylvania**

#### *An Evening of Health at the Franklin Institute Science Museum*

The CoE served as a co-contributor for *An Evening of Health for Today's African American Woman* with Pfizer pharmaceutical company. The evening was hosted in conjunction with *The Changing Face of Women's Health*, a nationally recognized exhibit focusing on the unique health care needs of women, which was displayed at the Franklin Institute Science Museum. The evening's program included a guest speaker, tours of the traveling health exhibit, panelist discussion by University of Pennsylvania physicians, and health screenings from health educators available for one-on-one discussions.

### **University of Puerto Rico**

#### *MujerEs Goes to the Movies*

The Educational Program MujerEs has launched a new information dissemination strategy through the initiative

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## **DHHS WOMEN'S HEALTH TIME CAPSULE GROUND-BREAKING AND TEA**

**May 14, 2002  
2:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Lawton Chiles  
International House, NIH  
By invitation only**



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“MujerEs de Pelicula”. Women are invited through their community physicians to a special showing of a commercial film at different theaters throughout the island. The activity is sponsored once a month from February to October 2002. Prior to the film, a brief conference on women’s health topics is offered by a physician and printed materials on women’s health are distributed. A short footage with a message from Dr. Delia M. Camacho, CoE Center Director, and from Dr. Josefina Romaguera, CoE Clinic and Menopause Information Center Director, precedes each film. The new initiative expects to reach approximately 1,000 women this year.

### University of California, San Francisco

#### *9<sup>th</sup> Annual UCSF Women’s Health 2020 Conference*

Held on March 16, 2002, the day-long event—sponsored by the CoE and the UCSF Obstetrics and Gynecology Research and Education Foundation—aimed to inspire women to take charge of their health and provided them with the information and tools to do so. A series of workshops, entertainment and interactive self-care sessions provided a wide variety of health topics that are pertinent to women at every point in their life-span. To jumpstart women’s wellness, the self-care sessions offered bone density screening, massage therapy, herbal supplement consultation, blood pressure, thyroid check, and acupuncture demonstration. Elizabeth Saviano, a distinguished leader in the field of women’s health and well-being and Chief of the California Office of Women’s Health, served as keynote speaker.

#### *UCSF Women’s Health Center: Expanding Care for Women*

The University has designated an eight-story clinical building on the Mount Zion campus as the UCSF Women’s Health Center to consolidate ambulatory women’s health services under the direction of CoE Center Director Dr. Nancy Milliken. This centralization

of services enhances the center’s ability to provide multidisciplinary care to women. The expansion will help overcome historical fragmentation of care and will allow the center to provide treatment for women at every stage of life. The new geographic proximity will encourage clinical collaborations amongst many women’s health practices and will link to a robust network of specialty services including breast cancer, mental health, and osteoporosis treatment.

#### *—Healing Garden, Ida’s Café, and Tile Project at the UCSF Women’s Health Center*

Everyone who enters the CoE Women’s Health Center is welcomed by a healing garden, a tile project, and Ida’s Café. This space embodies the center’s philosophy that the experience of patients and their

families deserves prominence in a health care setting. Ida’s Café, dedicated by Joe Friend to his wife, offers a place to eat and talk with a view of the healing garden. The healing garden and tile project were designed by Ann Chamberlain, a breast cancer survivor and patient of the UCSF Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center. The serene outdoor courtyard is available for patients to spend a few peaceful minutes when they come to the Center for care.



#### *UCSF Women's Health Promotes Extensive Research Agenda*

The Women's Health Research Center, the research center for the CoE, will significantly strengthen clinical and

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**“I never see what has been done; I only see what remains to be done.”**

**—Marie Curie**

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teaching programs in women's health and expand and strengthen ambulatory research through collaboration with the Mount Zion General Clinical Research Center. In addition to reproductive health research, this Center will explore the post reproductive health concerns of women. A second new program is the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, a CoE collaborating partner, whose mission is to find the most effective treatments for patients by combining non-traditional and traditional approaches. Through scientific research, the Center's faculty will document the value of non-traditional treatments and integrative approaches of proven value into patient care that address all aspects of health—biological, psychological, social, and spiritual.

### **The University of Wisconsin**

#### *Association of Academic Women in Lung Cancer's Inaugural Meeting*

Drs. Molly Carnes and Gloria E. Sarto participated in the inaugural meeting on October 3, 2001 in Chicago of the Association of Academic Women in Lung Cancer to discuss gender differences in lung cancer in women. The meeting was organized by the president of the new organization, Dr. Joan Schiller, CoE affiliate and Professor of Medical Oncology, UW-Madison.

#### *First Fridays For Faculty and Staff to Network*

Dr. Gloria Sarto, Director of the CoE Research Working Group, and Special Assistant to the Dean on Gender, leads the *First Fridays Breakfast Network for Women Faculty and Staff* at University of Wisconsin Medical School. Now in its 4th year, it featured the following 2000-2001 speakers:

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**“I’m trying to fit 30 minutes of daily exercise into my busy schedule. Today I took 120 fifteen-second walks.”**

- Dr. Pamela Douglas, CoE faculty member, Head of University of Wisconsin Health Cardiovascular Medicine, and internationally known for her scientific work in heart disease in women, presented, *Women in Academic Medicine*.
- Newly appointed Associate Dean for Faculty, Dr. Gloria Johnson-Powell, presented a talk on faculty development and cultural competence. Dr. Johnson-Powell relies on the CoE for input on serving diverse populations.

**“My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.”**

**—Indira Gandhi**





**A**wards, Awards, Awards—the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) continue to garner accolades, new funding, leadership appointments, and recognition for their leadership in women's health. A few of the many awards and honors the CoEs have earned for their outstanding achievements are listed below.

#### **University of Washington**

Mary Laya, MD, MPH, CoE Curriculum Director, and Deborah Johnson Miranda, CoE Community Outreach Coordinator, each received an Outstanding Patient Educator Award from the University of Washington Medical Center Patient and Family Education Services for their work on the UW CoE's Web site patient education materials, which are available in a variety of languages.

Emily Y. Wong, M.D., F.A.C.P. Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine and CoE Center Director, received a Women in Science award from Career Communications Group, Inc. (CCG). Dr. Wong is among the winners of CCG's first annual awards conference dedicated to recognizing *Women of Color in Health, Science and Technology*. The winners were selected for their career accomplishments and for their dedication to helping other minorities succeed. CCG, based in Baltimore, Md., specializes in providing recognition to professionals of color in a variety of fields, and also publishes magazines that promote diversity in engineering, science, and technology: *US Black Engineer & Information Technology*, *Hispanic Engineer Information Technology* and *Women of Color Conference*.

#### **Magee-Womens Hospital**

Debbi Linhart, Magee-Womens Hospital CoE Administrative Director, is the new Pittsburgh Board Chairperson for the March of Dimes. The two organizations have a strong relationship in the Pittsburgh Prematurity Prevention Project.

#### **MCP Hahnemann University**

Ana Núñez, M.D., CoE Professional Education Director and Director of the Women's Health Education Program's Institute for Women's Health, has been chosen by HRSA as a 2002 Secretary's Primary Health Care Policy Fellow. She is one of only 30 fellows funded by HRSA this year, and was nominated by the Association of American Medical Colleges at the request of Secretary Thompson.

Katherine Sherif, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, and Director of the Center for Health and Wellness at the Centers for Women's Health—which serves as the CoE Clinical Center—at MCP, was named January 2002 Agent of Change by Women's Way of Philadelphia. Dr. Sherif was selected for her determination in working to combat diabetes and cardiovascular disease, particularly among African American women.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded the MCP Hahnemann CoE's ELAM program a five-year grant for *Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women—Evaluation of Effectiveness, Long-term Impact, and Theory Building About Leadership Development of Women*. Page Morahan, Ph.D., CoE Project Director of Leadership, will serve as principal investigator.

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

Dr. Alan DeCherney, Professor, UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, CoE Co-Center Director, received the Man of the Year Award from the Infertility Association, an international organization that represents

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**"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."**

**—Margaret Thatcher**

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the infertility community.

#### **Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana**

Jeanette H. Magnus, M.D., Ph.D., CoE Center Director, was elected as a member of the Tulane University Presidential Task Force on Gender and Equity.

Sheila W. Chauvin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry/Neurology, Director of Educational Research and Services at the Medical School, and TUXCoE Leadership Advisory Committee member, was elected as Honorary Member of the Society of Teaching Scholars, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL.

Nina Dhurandhar, MD, Professor of Pathology, TUXCoE Leadership Advisory Committee member, was elected as Chair of the National Committee on Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) subcommittee on Papanicolaou Technique.

Karen E. Friday, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and TUXCoE Clinical Core Director, was elected as fellow in the American College of Physicians of the American Society of Internal Medicine.

#### **University of Pennsylvania**

The University of Pennsylvania Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health (CRRWH)—which houses the University of Pennsylvania CoE—was awarded a Fannie E. Rippel Foundation grant of \$300,000 to establish a laser micro-dissection core.

Ellen Freeman, Ph.D., Research Professor and CoE faculty member, has received continued funding for her NIH R01 grant, Epidemiologic Study of the Late Reproductive Years through the National Institute on Aging. The grant extends to January 2006 with total cost support for this period of \$3,024,306.

Karen Berkowitz, M.D., Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholar and CoE faculty member, has been named recipient of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine-Organon Research Grant in Reproductive Medicine for 2001. The award is for two years beginning on July 1, 2001 and includes total funding of \$50,000.

Carmen Williams, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor and CoE faculty member, will receive funding for her NIH R03 grant, Role of the tetraspanin EMP2 in early reproduction. The project period is April 2001 through March 2003 with total cost support of \$158,500.

Jerome F. Strauss, M.D., Ph.D., CoE Center Director and faculty member, was elected President Nominee of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation and will assume the presidency of the Society in 2003.

Jen Wood, Ph.D., CoE faculty member, won award from the Endocrine Society for her work on polycystic ovary syndrome.

Marjorie Bowman, M.D., CoE Center Director and CHR Family Practice and Community Medicine, received the F. Marian Bishop Award for "Enhancing the Academic Credibility of Family Medicine" at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Marjorie Bowman, M.D. is also the new President of the American Board of Family Practice.

In 2001, FOCUS announced the recipients of the first year of the FOCUS Medical Student Fellowship in Women's Health. FOCUS on Health and Leadership for Women was established in response to large gaps in knowledge about the causes, diagnoses, treatments and prevention of diseases afflicting women. This new initia-



**"What would you attempt  
to do if you knew you could  
not fail?"**

**—Anonymous**

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tive offers University of Pennsylvania medical students funding of \$15,000 to work with a University of Pennsylvania faculty mentor for up to one year conducting clinical or basic science research or working in a community-based program on women's health issues. The University of Pennsylvania CoE faculty mentors also received additional funds for research costs and activities.

### **University of California, San Francisco**

A new state law, signed by Gov. Gray Davis on Sept 12, recognizes UCSF as a leader in women and children's care with the naming of UCSF Children's Hospital and the Center for Mothers and Newborns. The Center and the CoE, are both part of the hospital and Dr. Milliken, CoE Center Director, along with other CoE faculty are members of the Center's staff.

### **The University of Wisconsin**

Dr. Molly Carnes, CoE Center Director, has been selected as a 2002 Woman of Distinction by the YWCA of Madison, Wisconsin. This award honors women who demonstrate sustained excellence and accomplishment in their profession, exhibit leadership qualities, have been a role model for other women, and are committed to improving the quality of life in the community. It will be presented at the 28th Annual Woman of Distinction banquet on May 13, 2002.

The American College of Physicians—American Society of Internal Medicine, Wisconsin Chapter announced that CoE Center Director Molly Carnes, M.D., M.S., Professor of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2001 Addis Costello Internist Award.

Dr. Carnes was also selected as one of the area's BEST DOC's by Madison Magazine, (WI), and her work on women and abuse was featured in the October, 2001 issue of SELF MAGAZINE.

Dr. Carnes is a principal investigator on an Institutional Transformation Award from the National Science Foundation. The University of Wisconsin-Madison—one of eight sites selected for this initiative nationally—will receive \$3.75 million to establish a National Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute focusing on developing and evaluating ways to increase the number of women in academic science and engineering.

CoE Co-Director, Gloria E. Sarto, M.D., Ph.D, founding member and past president of the Society for Women's Health Research, received the Lila Wallis Women's Health Award. She was recognized for her lifetime achievements to improve the health of women through research, the training of physicians, and health care policy.

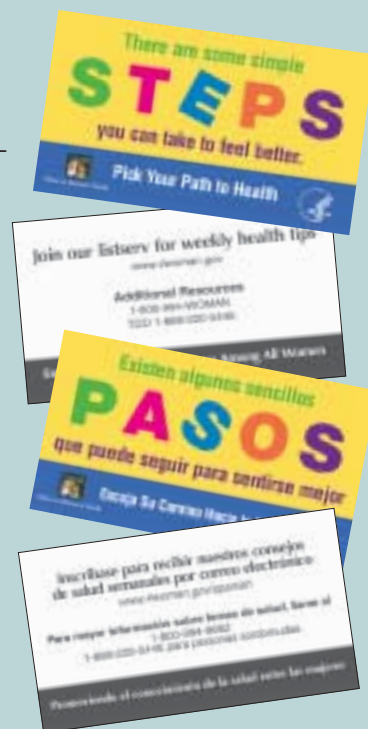
Drs. Julia McMurray and Mark Linzer, CoE faculty members, received a grant from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality for the MEMO Study - Minimizing Error, Maximizing Outcome: The Physician Worklife Study II. The total award of \$1.45 million over the next three years is for a prospective study of 500

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## **Deliver Health Messages to Women in Your Community!**

It's easy to provide women in your community with a weekly health message via e-mail from the *Pick Your Path to Health* campaign. The campaign encourages women to take small steps on a daily basis to create a path toward better health. The best part is that the *Pick Your Path to Health* campaign does all the work. So sit back and invite women in your community to subscribe at [www.4woman.gov](http://www.4woman.gov). It's that simple!

Attractive cards promoting this service are available in English and Spanish. Visit <http://www.4woman.gov/PYPATH/CAK/orderform.htm> to place your order.



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physicians and 3000 of their patients in Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York and rural Wisconsin. The study will address the relationship between the health care work environment, physician satisfaction and stress, patient outcomes, and medical errors. The ultimate goal is to produce a list of best practices that will allow physicians and their organizations to determine how they would like to organize health care delivery to optimize physician work life and the quality of care received by their patients.

Jessica Bartell, M.D., CoE faculty member, was accepted into the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) Loan Repayment Program for the years 2001-2003. She will receive \$35,000 loan repayment each year for two years for her research in the area of health disparities. Bartell's particular proposal is to use the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) to look at the effects of parental health on their children's health later in life and to examine how socioeconomic status affects that relationship.

Cynthia Carlsson, MD, CoE faculty member, Geriatric Medicine and Women's Health Fellow, received the 2002 Merck/American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) Junior Investigator Award in Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology for her proposal called *The Effects of Simvastatin on the Pathobiology of Alzheimer's Disease*. The two-year award will begin in July 2002 and provides \$120,000 research support. The proposed study will evaluate the effects of simvastatin on cerebrospinal fluid

markers of Alzheimers disease progression and cognitive testing scores in a group of adults at high risk of developing the disease.

#### University of Puerto Rico

The CoE Center Director, Dr. Delia Camacho, and Dr. Josefina Romaguera, Clinical Director, received funding from the American Heart Association, Florida Affiliate, to conduct a pilot study on Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Hispanic Women in Puerto Rico. This project will provide pilot data for a longitudinal study to develop an epidemiological profile of females aged 35 to 80 in Puerto Rico regarding the prevalence of major risk factors for cardiovascular disease by health status, demographic characteristics, lifestyles, attitudes toward health and menopausal status and beliefs.



Dr. Camacho, CoE Center Director, received a five-year grant from the Research Centers for Minority Institutions Program to conduct a research activity on Health Disparities in Women's Health. The purpose of this proposal is to strengthen research in women's health at the CoE by supporting pilot projects in the major causes of morbidity and mortality in women's health in Puerto Rico. The following two projects are proposed under this grant: *A Multidimensional Empowerment Intervention Model for Women with Breast Cancer*, which aims to implement a multidimensional model specifically designed for women with breast cancer, and *Health and Menopause in Hispanic Women in Puerto Rico* to develop the first data of the health status, during midlife and menopause, of Hispanic women living in Puerto Rico.

Dr. Delia Camacho, CoE Center Director, received a grant from the March of Dimes for an educational project. The project, titled *Health Education and Promotion for the Use of Folic Acid as Part of a Women's Integrated Health Care* was submitted in collaboration with the Office of Quality of Life of the Campus Deanship of Students. It disseminates information and education and promotes use of synthetic folic acid and healthy lifestyles in women of reproductive age.

**"Teaching is the greatest act  
of optimism."  
—Colleen Wilcox**

**CoE Contact Information:**

**Boston University Medical Center**  
720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 1108  
Boston, MA 02118  
(617) 638-8035  
(617) 638-8026 (fax)  
<http://www.bmc.org/coewh/>

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Education  
and Resource Center  
100 UCLA Medical Plaza Drive, Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7075  
(800) 825-2631  
(310) 794-9039  
(310) 267-1585 (fax)  
<http://womenshealth.med.ucla.edu/>

**University of California, San Francisco**  
Box 1694; 2200 Post Street, C-520  
San Francisco, CA 94143-1694  
(415) 353-7829  
(415) 353-9580 (fax)  
<http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~ucsfcoe/>

**Harvard Medical School**  
Division of Women's Health  
Neville House  
10 Vining Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 732-5759  
(617) 264-5210 (fax)  
<http://www.hmcnet.harvard.edu/coe/>

**University of Illinois at Chicago**  
820 South Wood Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60612  
(312) 355-0467  
(312) 996-4238 (fax)  
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/womenshealth/>

**Indiana University School of Medicine**  
Indiana Cancer Pavilion  
535 Barnhill Drive, RT-150  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 274-2754  
(317) 274-2785 (fax)  
<http://www.iupui.edu/~womenhlt/>

**Magee-Womens Hospital**  
University of Pittsburgh  
300 Halket Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3180  
(412) 641-1141  
(412) 641-1133 (fax)  
<http://www.magee.edu/cewh2.htm>

**MCP Hahnemann University**  
Institute for Women's Health  
The Gatehouse  
MCP Hospital  
3300 Henry Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
(215) 842-7041  
(215) 843-7946 (fax)  
<http://www.auhs.edu/institutes/iwh/coe.html>

**University of Michigan Health System**  
Women's Health Program  
1342 Taubman Center  
(Level One)  
1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Room L-4000  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0276  
(734) 764-8123  
(734) 647-9727 (fax)  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/whrc/ctr.excel.html>

**University of Pennsylvania**  
1355 BRB II/III  
421 Curie Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6142  
(215) 573-3569  
(215) 573-5408 (fax)  
<http://www.obgyn.upenn.edu/cewh/>

**University of Puerto Rico**  
Medical Sciences Campus  
P.O. Box 365067  
San Juan, PR 00936-5067  
(787) 758-2525 ext. 1368/1360  
(787) 753-0090 (fax)  
<http://www.rcm.upr.edu/2k1whc/>

**Tulane and Xavier Universities  
of Louisiana**  
Tulane University School of Public  
Health and Tropical Medicine  
127 Elks Place, EP-7  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(877) 588-5100  
(504) 988-4657 (fax)  
<http://www.tuxcoe.tulane.edu>

**University of Washington, Seattle**  
4245 Roosevelt Way NE  
Campus Box 354765  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 598-8991  
(206) 598-8957 (fax)  
<http://depts.washington.edu/~uw98coe/>

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Meriter Hospital-Park/6 West  
202 South Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715  
(608) 267-5566  
(608) 267-5577 (fax)  
<http://www.womenshealth.wisc.edu/>

**Additional Women's Health Information and Resources:**

**National Women's Health  
Information Center**  
Office on Women's Health  
Department of Health and  
Human Services  
Washington, D.C.  
800-994-WOMAN  
888-220-5446 (TDD)  
<http://www.4woman.gov/>

**CoE Home Page:**  
<http://www.4woman.gov/coe>



OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH  
NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE STAFFING TEAM

Susan M. Clark, M.A.  
Director, Division of Program Management  
CoE Project Officer

Barbara F. James, M.P.H.  
Health Science Analyst  
CCOE Program Director

Anna Kindermann, J.D.  
Public Health Analyst

Carol Krause, M.A.  
Director, Division of Communication

Carolyn Lofgren  
Advisor on Regional Women's Health

Sandi Lowery  
Program Analyst

Saralyn Mark, M.D.  
Senior Medical Advisor

Eileen P. Newman, M.S., R.D.  
Public Health Analyst

Frances Ashe-Goins, R.N., M.P.H.  
Deputy Director, Office on Women's Health  
Director, Division of Policy and Program  
Development

Jonelle Rowe, M.D.  
Senior Medical Advisor on Adolescent Health

Valerie Scardino, M.P.A.  
Program Manager  
National Women's Health Information Center

Calvin Teel  
Staff Assistant

## We'd Like to Hear from You

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions or comments on *Models for the Nation*, please contact Devona Springer at 301-984-7191 or [dspringer@matthewsgroup.com](mailto:dspringer@matthewsgroup.com).



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